NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
August 8, 1997

Outstanding Performance! Thank you Public Services

ATTENDANCE UP! This summer has been a very exciting one for our front line team here at The Field Museum. We are averaging 5,000 Visitors every Saturday and Sunday and the past two Wednesdays we have reached more than 10,000 Visitors entering our doors. Audio Visual, Housekeeping, Security and Visitor Services are working together "Welcoming" all of our Visitors to our Museum. Just imagine how dry our mouths are at the end of the day!

SERVICE EXCELLENT! Visitor Services is doing a great job selling as many Dinosaur Families and Dino Dig tickets as possible and then informing these same families about the membership advantages. The Security Team increased patrols both in and around our Museum to ensure the safety for all of us and our visitors too. Our Housekeeping Team must work *all day long* to keep our Museum visitor-ready -- forever on the lookout around the many restrooms, school groups, exhibits and halls. These are taxing tasks for all of us, especially when ***excellent customer service*** expectations are the norm.

~~PROBLEMS~~ ***OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!*** With this mass of people come the typical situations for which our Public Services Teams are trained: reuniting lost parents with their children, spills and clean-ups, complaints about parking, first aid assists, price complaints, unregistered school groups and even the occasional pick pocket, just to name a few. Every member of the Public Services Team has to deal with these situations on a regular basis, but every so often an unusual situation occurs and we want everyone to know about it.

CHIRKINA TO THE RESCUE! Many of you know the familiar face of Chirkina as he controls our freight elevator on many days and delivers packages to all departments. He has worked here for more than seventeen years. While patrolling **The World of Birds** as a rover this past weekend, Chirkina found an unattended purse, took it to Field Base and checked out the contents of the bag. Being from Baghdad himself, he noticed some of the money in the purse was from Saudi Arabia. The appropriate phone calls were made and all Public Services staff were alerted to the found purse. Chirkina then went back on the floor.

Chirkina then noticed a woman dressed in clothing from the Middle East. He approached her and asked if she was looking for anything. She eyed him up and down and said "NO," apparently not understanding what Chirkina was asking her. So he tried again and asked if she was in the

Museum with anyone else who might have lost something. At this time the lady's daughter and son-in-law frantically approached them because the *daughter* had lost her purse. Chirkina had not only found the bag, but because of the contents and his quick wit he found the people searching too. He was able to reunite them with their thousands of dollars of traveler's checks. All parties involved were very happy.

Chirkina -- ***thank you*** for taking the initiative and going the extra mile. We appreciate all you do for Public Services. We are proud to have you on our team.

BRAVO TO ALL PUBLIC SERVICES STAFF! We would also like to thank all the Public Services Team for going the extra mile every day. We need and appreciate all of you who take the initiative and strive towards both team work and excellent customer service all the time. Keep up the incredible job you are doing throughout the rest of this busy summer.

Diane White, Director of Public Services

Welcome!

Please welcome **Shawn VanDerziel** to the Human Resources Department. Shawn's focus will be on Museum-wide recruiting and employee relations. He will also work on developing a more formalized welcoming program for interns. Shawn has a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University in employment relations. He worked previously at National Louis University and most recently was manager for recruitment for a staffing agency. You may call Shawn at ext. 531. He will be located on the ground floor just outside the President's office (Jennifer Noe's old office). Please join me in giving Shawn a warm welcome to our Museum.

Marilyn Martinson
Director of Human Resources

PERSONAL PIZZA POTENTIAL ON MCFETRIDGE

Don't create the first human personal pizza on McFetridge -- Drive Carefully!
There have been some near misses lately due to persons attempting to turn left into the West Lot driveway from McFetridge Drive. All staff are reminded that the driveway leaving the West Lot exiting onto McFetridge Drive is one-way, and is not an entrance. It is posted with a ***Do Not Enter*** sign. When coming to the Museum, if you are authorized to park in the West lot, do not turn immediately into the driveway. Rather, go east past the crosswalk stop sign, and turn left at the "U turns to Field Museum West Lot..." sign. Thank you. -- **Ron Cundiff**, Security

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FASTLANE ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO NSF

The Field Museum recently became one of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) registered FastLane Institutions. The purpose of FastLane is to experiment with ways to use the World Wide Web to facilitate business transactions and the exchange of information between the NSF and its client community including researchers, reviewers and others doing business with NSF. Now Field Museum Principal Investigators (PIs) can submit proposals, reviews and final reports, in addition to checking proposal status, electronically. NSF's FastLane page is located at: **www.fastlane.nsf.gov**

All PIs interested in using FastLane must contact **Sophie Twichell** (x877).

NEH GRANT FUNDS UPGRADE OF ANTHROPOLOGY STORAGE

Cap Sease and **Jonathan Haas** recently were awarded $700,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to rehouse Anthropology collections. This was the largest grant NEH awarded this funding cycle. Over a four year period, the Anthropology Department will upgrade the storage of roughly half its collections. Work will involve the construction of storage mounts to support objects and the addition of boxes to hold individual and groups of objects. In addition, racks will be constructed to house rolled textiles, such as those from the Philippines, Central and South America. One important aim of the project is to bring together collections that are scattered in more than one location, thereby increasing their accessibility for collections care as well as for research. As part of this relocation, some objects will be removed from two substandard storage facilities and put into upgraded storerooms with climate control. Great work Cap and Jonathan!

PERU TRIP YIELDS SPECIMENS AND EXPOSURE

Curator **Michael Dillon** (Botany), recently returned from fifty days of fieldwork and research in Peru, supported by the National Geographic Society. Dillon collected samples in the Bosque de Protección Alto Mayo (Rioja, San Martín) with Research Associate **Isidoro Sánchez Vega** (Botany). The trip yielded ca. 250 samples of woody plants in sets of six to eight each, yielding a total of ca. 1700 individual collections, including requested material for molecular systematics. In Rioja, two radio interviews were granted which covered local conservation problems and our efforts to learn more about the forests of the region. Seminars explaining the content and construction of the Andean Botanical Information System, Dillon's website, were given at the Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego (June 12, Trujillo) and Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca (July 18, Cajamarca). Both these universities have established their WWW connections, and faculty and students are beginning to actively use internet resources. In Trujillo, Dillon also participated as a panelist at a public seminar exploring the role of the press in drawing attention to environmental issues ("Periodismo Ambiental Reto Para Las Ciencias de La Comunicación").

Dillon addressed the importance of reporting scientific information in an accurate and appropriate form to an audience with varying ranges of understanding. In a municipal ceremony on July 17, the mayor of Cajamarca conferred upon Dillon the status of "Huésped Ilustre" (special visitor) in recognition of his past and ongoing cooperative research efforts with the university. At that time, he was incorporated into the "Plana Docente, Escuela de Post-Grado" (graduate school faculty) at the Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca. Currently, the school is accredited for a Masters program in Natural Resources and accreditation of a PhD program is expected in the near future.

CCUC AROUND TOWN

Center for Cultural Understanding and Change (CCUC) Director **Alaka Wali** and Project Administrator **Jaci Carter** (CCUC) continue to promote programs at The Field Museum. Alaka Wali gave a talk at the Unitarian Church of Evanston on Sunday, July 27. The title of the talk was "New Initiatives around Cultural Diversity at the Field Museum," and highlighted the Living Together exhibit. The talk was part of their regular Sunday forum series. Jaci Carter appeared on the "Truth in Action" show for the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations. The program will be airing throughout the month of August on the local Chicago Cable Access Channel.